

RESPONSE TO CRITICISM THAT
REPUBLICANS ARE OUTSPENDING CLINTON

Many Democrats claim that the current spending spree exceeds even the budget submitted by Bill Clinton in February. Below are some important facts that demonstrate that Clinton wants to spend even more money.

HOUSE PASSED BILLS and THREATENED VETOES: The House passed all 13 appropriations bills at a level less than what CBO estimated would be necessary to keep pace with inflation. President Clinton threatened to veto 7 of those 13 bills, in large part because he demanded more spending.

Excerpts from Statements from the Clinton Administration sent to the House:

Agriculture Appropriations: “...given the severe underfunding of critical programs ... the President's senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill...”(6/29/00)

Commerce/Justice/State: “...given the severe underfunding of critical programs ... the President's senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill...” (6/22/00)

Foreign Operations: “...the funding provided is inadequate...The President's senior advisers would recommend that the President veto the bill...”(7/12/00)

Interior: “The Committee's failure to fund key programs sufficiently...would lead the President's senior advisers to recommend a veto...” (6/9/00)

Labor/HHS/Education: “For the reasons discussed below, if the bill were presented to the President in its current form, the President would veto the bill. ...The bill fails to fund key education priorities...underfunds public health priorities...” (6/7/00)

Treasury/Postal/IRS: “The Committee bill continues this pattern by underfunding the Internal Revenue Service, counterterrorism programs, Presidential transition expenses, and necessary construction and repair of Federal facilities. If the bill were presented to the President in its current form, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto it.” (7/20/00)

VA/HUD: “If the final bill presented to the President were to provide inadequate funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service, his senior advisers would recommend that the President veto the bill.” (6/19/00)

CLINTON's TAX INCREASES: According to the Congressional Budget Office and Clinton's own budget submission, he has proposed over \$10 billion in tax *increases* to offset additional increases in discretionary spending. In other words, if Congress simply enacted the President's budget, we would have to *raise* taxes by \$10 billion next year.

Specific tax increases include: Superfund tax extensions, FAA user fees, and an expanded federal tobacco tax.

CLINTON's GAMES: Every year, Bill Clinton sends up a budget that underfunds Republican priorities, such as defense, law enforcement, and medical research. Clinton then uses that extra money to provide large increases for his own priorities. When Republicans move money back to our priorities, Clinton argues that we are underfunding his priorities and threatens to veto the appropriations bills.

Specific Examples:

Clinton’s budget underfunded Defense and Military Construction by \$4.1 billion.

Clinton’s budget underfunded NIH medical research by \$1.7 billion.

Clinton’s budget underfunded State and local law enforcement assistance by \$1.2 billion.

LABOR/HHS NEGOTIATIONS: At this moment, the White House is demanding \$6 billion in additional spending for Labor/HHS/Education. The current bill already equals the President's original request. Until Congress agrees to this \$6 billion in additional spending, the White House negotiators are refusing to even meet with Congressional negotiators.

*The views expressed in these Talking Points do not necessarily reflect the views of
all Members of the Conservative Action Team.*

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of almost 60 Republican House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).